

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. The present Amendment amends Claims 2, 11, 12, 15, and 16. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed application. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the abstract of the disclosure was objected to because of informalities; the specification was objected to because of informalities; Claims 2, 4, 11, 12, and 15-20 were objected to because of informalities but noted as allowable; and Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 13, and 14 were allowed. Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in the claims.

In response to the objection to the abstract of the disclosure and the specification, these sections are amended to correct the noted informalities.

In response to the objection to Claims 2, 4, 11, 12, and 15-20, Claims 2, 11, 12, 15, and 16 are amended to correct the cited informalities. Accordingly, the grounds for the objection are believed to have been overcome. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to Claims 2, 11, 12, and 15-20 be withdrawn.

Applicant notes that reference AX in the PTO-1449 filed on November 6, 2001, has not been initialed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests formal acknowledgment of the consideration of the English abstract of document WO 98/26546 in a future communication.

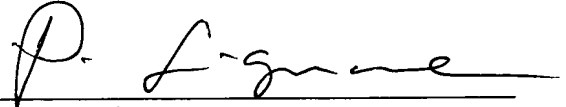
Consequently, in view of the present Amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-20 is earnestly solicited.

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Reply to Office Action of June 8, 2005

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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